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HEALTH
11 JAN 1971
F.O. 73

**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MOLD**

**ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT**
for 1969

Medical Officer of Health :
D. J. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :
R. GOUCHER, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector :
M. COPPACK, M.A.P.H.I.

Edwards, Printers, Mold. Tel. 2077.

MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the district, together with the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

The population estimate was 8,040, an increase of 140 over the previous year.

There were 155 live births, 19 more than in 1968, giving a birth rate higher than that for England and Wales. Still births totalled 3, compared with 2 in 1968.

Deaths numbered 106, compared with 107 in 1968. The leading causes of death were again circulatory diseases and cancer, with 55 and 19 deaths respectively. 75 of the deaths were of persons aged 65 years and over. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Once again, there were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth. There were 2 deaths of infants under a year old, compared with 1 in 1968, 2 in 1967, 1 in 1966 and 2 in 1965.

During the year there were outbreaks of dysentery, with 19 cases, and measles with 22. There were no new cases of tuberculosis. One death associated with this complaint was of a temporary resident.

The Mass Radiography Unit's regular visits ended in 1968, but the Unit continues to visit local works.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis continued in local schools.

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector indicates the amount of work done in the field of food hygiene. Mold continues to keep its position as a distributive centre for the surrounding countryside, and with the ever increasing volume of food being handled, it is most important that the food should be treated in such a manner that

it reaches the consumer in a clean and wholesome condition.

Mr. Goucher and Mr. Coppack devoted much of their time to visits to food premises, and the result has been a rise in the general level of standards.

I wish to thank the Council and the Officers for their support throughout the year, and in particular Mr. M. Coppack who was promoted when Mr. Goucher left at the end of the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,

Earl Road, Mold.

Mold.

Telephone : Mold 2729 or 2881

Mold 3316 (Home)

VITAL STATISTICS, 1969.

Population : Registrar General's estimate at mid-year	8.040
Census, 1961	6,894
Live Births :	
Number	155
Rate per 1000 population	19.3
Adjusted local birth rate	19.3
National birth rate per 1000 population	16.3
Illegitimate live births	12
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	8
Still Births :	
Number	3
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	19
National still birth rate	13
Total live and still births	158
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates :	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	13
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	83
National infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	18
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	6
National neo-natal mortality rate	12
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births)	6
National early neo-natal mortality rate	10
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live and still births)	25
National perinatal mortality rate	23
Maternal mortality (including abortion) :	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil
National maternal mortality rate (per 1000 total live and still births)	0.19
Deaths (from all causes)	106
Crude death rate per 1000 population	13.2
Adjusted local death rate	16.4
National death rate per 1000 population	11.9

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1,160 statutory acres

Population (Census 1961)—6,894

Number of habitable houses—2,528

Rateable Value—£257,578

Product of a penny rate—£1,003.

Rateable Value—£247,159

Product of a penny rate—£1,000

The various vital statistics are listed below in tabular form. For the purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I. Live Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	74	69	143
Illegitimate	10	2	12
Total	84	71	155

Live Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—18.62

1961—19.29

1962—20.42

1963—22.50

1964—23.12

1965—20.65

1966—23.97

1967—16.81

1968—17.21

1969—19.3

England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1000 Population :

1960—17.1
1961—17.4
1962—18.0
1963—18.2
1964—18.4
1965—18.1
1966—17.7
1967—17.2
1968—16.9
1969—16.3

These figures show a rise in the local birth rate. There were 155 live births, compared with 136 in 1968, 130 in 1967, 182 in 1966, 164 in 1965, 170 in 1964, 160 in 1963, 143 in 1962, and 132 in 1961. The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.00, the corrected birth rate is 19.3 per 1000 population.

TABLE II. Still Births.

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	.....	1	.....	2	.....	3
Illegitimate	.....	—	.....	—	.....	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	.....	1		2		3
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total Live and Still Births :—

1960—45.80
1961—22.22
1962—13.79
1963— 6.21
1964— 5.85
1965—29.58
1966—16.21
1967— 7.63
1968—14.49
1969—19.0

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—0.89
1961—0.43
1962—0.28
1963—0.14
1964—0.13
1965—0.66
1966—0.39
1967—0.12
1968—0.25
1969—0.37

**England and Wales : Still Birth Rate per 1000
Live and Still Births :—**

1960—19.7
1961—18.7
1962—18.1
1963—17.2
1964—16.4
1965—15.7
1966—15.4
1967—14.8
1968—14.0
1969—13.0

There were 3 still births in 1969 compared with 2 in 1968, 1 in 1967, 3 in 1966, 6 in 1965, 1 in 1964, 1 in 1963, 2 in 1962, 3 in 1961, and 6 in 1960.

TABLE III. Death (General) Rate :—

All ages (all causes)—Males 47, females 59, Total 106, compared with 107 in 1968, 69 in 1967, 84 in 1966, 71 in 1965, 80 in 1964, 83 in 1963, 75 in 1962, 99 in 1961, and 84 in 1960.

Crude Death Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—12.51
1961—14.47
1962—10.71
1963—11.67
1964—10.88
1965— 9.47
1966—11.06
1967— 8.92
1968—13.54
1969—13.2

England and Wales : Death Rate per 1000 Population :—

1960—	11.5
1961—	12.0
1962—	11.9
1963—	12.2
1964—	11.3
1965—	11.5
1966—	11.7
1967—	11.2
1968—	11.9
1969—	11.9

There has been little change in the crude death rate for the Mold Urban District. The rate for England and Wales was 11.9. The rate for Mold is higher than that for England and Wales as a whole. There were 106 deaths, compared with 107 in 1968, 69 in 1967 and 84 in 1966.

TABLE IV. Deaths (General) Analysis.

Causes.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Population.
Other tuberculosis, including late effects	.... 1	—	1	.... 0.12
Cancer of oesophagus	.... —	1	1	.... 0.12
Cancer of stomach	.... 2	—	2	.... 0.24
Cancer of intestine	.... 3	2	5	.... 0.62
Cancer of larynx	.... 1	—	1	.... 0.12
Cancer of lung and bronchus	.... 6	—	6	.... 0.74
Cancer of breast	.... —	1	1	.... 0.12
Other cancers	.... —	3	3	.... 0.37
Diabetes mellitus	.... 1	1	2	.... 0.24
Avitaminoses, etc.	.... —	1	1	.... 0.12
Other endocrine diseases	.... —	2	2	.... 0.24
Mental disorders	.... —	1	1	.... 0.12
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	.... 1	1	2	.... 0.24
Hypertensive disease	.... 3	—	3	.... 0.37
Ischaemic heart disease	.... 12	10	22	.... 2.73
Other forms of heart disease	.... 1	1	2	.... 0.24
Cerebro vascular disease	.... 4	16	20	.... 2.48
Other circulatory diseases	.... 4	2	6	.... 0.74

Causes.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000	
				Population.	
Pneumonia	1	8	9	....	1.11
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	2	6	....	0.74
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1	2	....	0.24
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2	....	0.24
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	—	1	1	....	0.12
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	—	1	....	0.12
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	—	1	1	....	0.12
Motor vehicle accidents	—	2	2	....	0.24
All other accidents	—	1	1	....	0.12
Total all causes	47	59	106		

From this table it is seen that the leading causes of death were circulatory diseases with 55 deaths (an increase of 4), and cancer in one form or another with 19 deaths (an increase of 3). One death was associated with tuberculosis, compared with 4 in 1968. Pneumonia caused 9 deaths, all in elderly people, and bronchitis 6, also in the old. Lung cancer caused 6 deaths, compared with 2 in 1968. Deaths from accidents numbered 3, compared with 7 in 1968.

The sudden rise in the death rate over the past two years appears to be due to the increasing numbers of elderly people in the district. Also it was found that some deaths were attributed to Mold, because of confusion due to postal addresses, the persons having been resident outside the Urban District. Another factor is the deaths of elderly people in Llys Alun. Those deaths should be included in the records of the district where the persons resided. These matters have been mentioned to the local Registrar and to the authorities at Llys Alun. The death from late effects of tuberculosis was of a child from Denbigh, temporarily resident in Mold.

TABLE V. Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

TABLE VI. **Death Rate (Infantile)**—that is, infants under one year old :—

		Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	.....	1	.....	—	.....	1
Illegitimate	.....	1	.....	—	.....	1
		—		—		—
Total	.....	2		—		2
		—		—		—

**Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1000
Legitimate Births :—**

1960—	24.79
1961—	32.00
1962—	36.49
1963—	38.72
1964—	24.24
1965—	12.90
1966—	5.81
1967—	8.19
1968—	8.00
1969—	7.00

**Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1000
Illegitimate Births :—**

1960—	Nil
1961—	Nil
1962—	166.66
1963—	200.00
1964—	Nil
1965—	Nil
1966—	Nil
1967—	125.0
1968—	Nil
1969—	83.0

Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Live Births (Legitimate and Illegitimate) :—

1960—	24.00
1961—	30.30
1962—	41.95
1963—	43.75
1964—	23.52
1965—	12.19
1966—	5.49
1967—	15.38
1968—	7.35
1969—	13.00

England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Live Births :—

1960—	21.7
1961—	21.4
1962—	21.6
1963—	21.1
1964—	20.0
1965—	19.0
1966—	19.0
1967—	18.3
1968—	18.0
1969—	18.0

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year old, compared with 1 in 1968, 2 in 1967, 1 in 1966, 2 in 1965, 4 in 1964 and 7 in 1963.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers — The other Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

Clerk—E. H. Rees, A.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer—H. Barrington Evans.

Surveyor—E. J. Stokes, C. Eng., M.I. Mun. E.

Laboratory Facilities — Provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Chester, and the Public Analyst, Chester.

Ambulance Services — Provided by the Flintshire County Council. Ambulances are stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

Home Help — This service is provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Help Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

School Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. First Friday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This is done in the schools and at Chest Clinics.

Dental Clinic.

School children and expectant mothers are treated at the Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. First and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m., and at Wrexham and Holywell.

Infant Welfare.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

Speech Therapy Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Health Visiting.

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis Health Visitors, Home Help Organiser, the Welfare Department, the County Health Department, and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

Vaccination is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47). (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year, but several cases were visited in this connection.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester. The provision of out-patient facilities at Mold is much appreciated by local residents.

**Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases
(excluding Tuberculosis), 1969.**

TABLE VII.

Diseases.	Cases notified.		Deaths notified.
Scarlet Fever	—	(0)	—
Whooping Cough	—	(0)	—
Measles	22	(8)	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	(0)	9
Meningitis	—	(0)	—
Erysipelas	—	(0)	—
Poliomyelitis	—	(0)	—
Dysentery	19	(0)	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	(0)	—
Food Poisoning	—	(1)	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	(0)	—
Total	41	(9)	9

Figures in brackets are those for 1968.

TABLE VIII.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Disease.	Under 1.	1-4.	5-9.	10-14.	15-24.	25 and over.
Measles	1	15	6	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	13	1	—	1	3

There were no cases of infantile paralysis (polio-myelitis). There were no cases of diphtheria during the year. Influenza of a mild type was prevalent in the spring causing no deaths. Combined vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is now available. Most mothers now have their children protected. Chickenpox and mumps were prevalent amongst the younger children.

There was an outbreak of dysentery at the beginning of the year. Many of the cases were in pre-school children attending a day nursery. These children came from a wide area around Mold, being mostly children of working parents. The infection may have been introduced by a

child whose illness was mild and unnoticed. With the complete co-operation of the nursery staff, the illness was prevented from spreading into the schools, and was soon brought under control.

There appeared to be a tendency for some working mothers to bring children to the nursery who were obviously ill. The mothers naturally wanted to avoid having to stay at home to care for the children, and every child had to be inspected daily on arrival at the nursery, and those who were off colour were sent home. Standards of hygiene at the nursery were high.

There were 22 notifications of measles during the summer. Most cases were five years of age or under.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1969.

Age Groups.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Total.
Under 5 years	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—
15-24 "	—	—	—
25-44 "	—	—	—
45-64 "	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—
	—	—	—
All ages	—	—	—

There were no new notifications of tuberculosis compared with 1 in 1968, 4 in 1967, 1 in 1966, 3 in 1965, none in 1964, 2 in 1963, 2 in 1962, and 6 in 1961.

There was one death associated with tuberculosis. This was in a temporary resident.

Mass X-Ray Surveys.

The regular monthly visits of the mobile x-ray unit ceased in December, 1967. The unit continued its visits to works and factories in the district. Chest x-ray investigations are carried out at the Chest Clinics and the Hospitals.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This service continued during 1969. Vaccination is offered to all suitable secondary school pupils between 12 and 14 years. The children are "skin-tested" in school, and those with a negative reaction are given the necessary single injection.

Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1969 vaccination against poliomyelitis continued.

In February, 1962, the Sabin vaccine—a live vaccine given by mouth—was introduced at Mold Clinic. This method is used at all Clinics and is well received. Three doses of three drops of vaccine are given at 4, 6 and 10 months, at the same time as the injections against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. A "booster" dose is given at 5 years, on school entry.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year under review has seen both considerable activity and consolidation of the work started during 1968. The appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector has begun to show more positive results during 1969, particularly in the work related to food hygiene and the health, safety and welfare of employees working in premises coming within the scope of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The condition of the majority of food premises, offices, etc., continues to show improvement, and it is essential that in order to maintain satisfactory progress regular inspections are made by a member of the Department. Employers are becoming more aware of their responsibilities under the various Acts and Regulations and this is to the benefit of employees and members of the public.

As will be seen from the statistics, 70 % of all food premises and 49 % of offices, etc., registered were inspected in detail, records made of the circumstances found and appropriate action taken to secure compliance when necessary.

The sharp drop in the rate of inspections above is in no small way due to the re-opening of the private slaughterhouse in Chester Street. Following extensive works being carried out, the slaughterhouse was licensed and commenced slaughtering from March onwards. A considerable amount of time both within and outside normal office hours was spent carrying out the detailed inspection of the carcasses and organs in order that meat unfit for human consumption can be rejected and the fit meat stamped and passed as edible.

The many other aspects of environmental health which come within the scope of the Public Health Inspector continue to receive attention, although pressure of work does not at times permit as detailed an investigation as one would normally like to pursue.

The year saw the introduction of the Housing Act, 1969, the main provisions of which are aimed at preventing any further unnecessary loss of the older type of house which is suitable for modernisation. Increased grants are more readily available now than ever before and it is hoped that those who would benefit from bringing their property up to a modern standard will come forward in larger numbers than in the past.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Public Health Acts.

Complaints	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Nuisances	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Drainage	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Animals	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	149
Water Supplies	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Offensive Trades	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Trade Effluents	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Verminous Premises, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Rodent Control	.....	.....	.....	.....	633
Mortuary	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Public Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Pet Animals Act	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Other Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
Informal Notices/Letters Served	.....	.....	.....	.....	10

Housing Acts.

Inspections—re-visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Inspections—searches	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
Improvement Grants—Standard	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Discretionary	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Houses in Multiple Occupation	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Demolition	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
Other inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
General inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Re-housing	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Other visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	17

Food and Drugs Acts, Regulations, etc.

Fried Fish and Chip Shops	6
Ice Cream—Premises (manufacturing)	16
Vehicles	2
Registered premises	42
Sampling	8
Other registered premises, manufacturers	31
Butchers	25
Grocers, etc.	43
Licensed premises	20
School kitchens	7
Sweet shops	15
Chemists	1
Bakehouses	8
Confectioners	5
Wholesale warehouses	2
Wet fish shops	8
Supermarkets	19
Greengrocers	10
Cafes	16
Assembly Hall	1
Vehicles	7
Stalls	4
Milk, dairies	4
Unsound food	17
Complaints	10
Other visits, etc.	70
Notices served	86

Cleansing, etc.

Re dustbins and storage	26
Business premises, etc.	17
Street cleansing	131
Litter	68
Controlled tipping	169
Plant and equipment	144
Other visits	33

Factories Acts

Factories without power	1
Factories with power	25
Notices served	3

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Initial inspections	75
Re-visits	184
Notices, etc., served	53	

Petroleum Spirit.

Inspections	12
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Civic Amenities Act.

Abandoned vehicles	4
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Indoor Market.

Visits and inspections	12
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Street Market.

Inspections	10
Other visits	8

Clean Air Act, 1956.**Smoke Control Areas :**

Survey	46
Advisory	44
Installation	10
Other visits	35

Noise.

Visits	15
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

The many and varied duties under the various Public Health Acts were of a general nature and no particular aspect was predominant. All complaints received prompt attention and the necessary action taken.

Water Supplies.

Regular sampling of the mains water is undertaken by the Department and all results have been very satisfactory. The Public Health Laboratory service in Chester undertake the analysis of all samples of water from Mold and in all twenty-six samples were taken in the year.

The pH rectifier has given rise to a steady improvement in the water supply and the consequent elimination of the plumbo solvency problem. The amount of lead in the water supply is well within the limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

Rodent Control.

Immediate attention is given to complaints of mouse and rat infestation, although the number of complaints is slightly up on the number received in 1968. Sewer treatments indicate that the sewers in the town are free of rats.

Some resistance from mice was noticed during the year but the change to a more advanced poison overcame this problem. Rats do not appear yet to be resistant to the anti-coagulant poison at the present time in use.

Offensive Trades.

Detailed inspections were carried out in the offensive trades premises and concern was felt at the problem emanating from the business. The closing down of the premises at Bromfield Lane was welcomed as this had been the source of a number of complaints.

Trade Effluents.

The general picture in trade effluents was that of general satisfaction and this indicates that consent conditions can be met, provided the necessary care and attention is given to the equipment and tanks, etc., provided by the occupier of the premises concerned.

Sampling of the effluent at quarterly intervals throughout the year enables a check to be made on the effluent being discharged into the Council's sewer.

POST MORTEM ROOM AND MORTUARY.

During the year 85 post mortems were carried out and the mortuary used twelve times.

It will be necessary during 1970 to carry out external work to the roof timbers, eaves gutters, etc., to prevent internal dilapidation.

Regular visits and inspections indicate that the premises are maintained in a clean and satisfactory manner.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Both blocks of conveniences are cleaned twice daily but continue to be misused and damaged by vandals.

It has been suggested in the past the only answer to the constant problem of repair and replacement in the conveniences is to have a first class block of toilets with constant supervision.

Decimalisation will require the conversion in 1970 of all the locks to enable a new penny (2.4 pence) to operate the coin lock.

HOUSING ACTS.

During the year eight families from condemned houses were re-housed and twenty-six houses were demolished. Six premises were dealt with by the making of demolition or closing orders.

There was a considerable reduction in the number of houses dealt with due to the temporary cessation of Council house building.

Although applications for improvement grants continued at a low ebb it is envisaged that the improved financial inducement brought about by the 1969 Act will, together with publicity, result in more owners taking advantage of the grants available for improving their property.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

During 1969 the following number of food premises have been inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations :—

	Number.		Number Inspected.
Licensed premises	23	.....	9
Food premises, shops, etc.	67	.....	53
Cafes, fish and chips, etc.	11	.....	9
Bakehouses	4	.....	2
Schools, etc.	8	.....	7
	<hr/> 113		<hr/> 80

Total number of visits to above premises—285.

Total number of notices served—44.

The following is information which the Welsh Board of Health requested to be included in the Annual Report :—

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

	Total No.	Complying with Reg. 16.	No. to which Reg. 19 applies.	No. complying with Reg. 19.
Food shops	.... 65	58	41	41
Cafes, etc.	.... 12	10	12	12
Bakehouses	.... 4	4	4	4
Licensed premises	.... 23	17	23	23
School kitchens	.... 7	5	7	7
Other premises	.... 2	2	2	2

During the year requests were received from time to time to inspect foodstuffs which had, from one cause or another, given rise to doubt in the mind of the retailer as to the fitness or wholesomeness of that food. Arising from such consultations and from the advice given, the following foods were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Meat and offal at slaughterhouse	7,986 lbs.
Canned meats	38 lbs.
Other canned foods	9 lbs.
Fresh fish	364 lbs.
Fresh fruit and vegetables	213 tons
Other foods	176 lbs.

Eight complaints about food purchased were received and in every case the usual enquiries were made as were the necessary contacts with the firms involved :—

1. A sliced wrapped loaf and some Oxo cubes were presented at the Health Department having been purchased at the same shop on different days and being partially eaten by mice.

On both occasions the Manager of the shop was interviewed, stock examined and the premises inspected.

The Company's Hygiene Executive visited the shop and then the Health Department, where he reported what action had been taken.

As a result of work by the Department in conjunction with the Company stock rotation has improved, overstocking of display shelves discontinued

and a private firm employed on a contract basis for regular treatment of the premises against mice infestation.

2. The complainant reported the presence of hairs in an unsliced loaf to a Public Health Inspector from a neighbouring authority in whose area the purchase was made.

As the bakehouse where the loaf was baked is situated in Mold the complaint was passed to this Department and a thorough investigation made. The bakehouse was inspected and apart from minor infringements of the regulations, was found to be operating in a satisfactory manner.

Consultation with the management resulted in recommendations being accepted in order to reduce the possibility of such a complaint re-occurring.

3. A complaint was made direct to the Health Department of the presence of a hair on a bun purchased from a shop in Mold.

The shop was visited, staff questioned, stock examined and then the proprietors of the bakehouse, which is situated outside the district, interviewed at the Health Department.

An assurance was given that all steps will be taken to minimise the risk of such a complaint re-occurring and certain matters raised which it is anticipated will improve the hygienic standard of the shop concerned.

4. The complainant purchased a 6 oz. carton of Yogurt from a shop in Mold and within ten minutes of the time of purchase opened the carton and found what appeared to be mould present on the surface of the liquid. She immediately brought the carton to the Health Department where all the relevant facts were noted.

Correspondence was received from the manufacturing Company indicating their concern, and it was pointed out that the carton of Yogurt was in fact out of date when sold. (The carton was stamped with a code number denoting the last permissible date of sale).

A representative of the manufacturers visited the Health Department and apologised on behalf of his Company for the presence of mould in the carton. He acknowledged that the van salesman who exchanged fresh carton for old out of date ones had been at fault in not withdrawing all old stock on display in the shop.

An assurance was received that "every effort would be made to ensure that the situation did not occur again," and as the complainant did not wish to be associated with legal proceedings it was felt that a satisfactory conclusion had been reached.

5. A complaint received by the Department resulted in the Public Analyst isolating a substance not normally found in a tin of strawberries. The result was "Mineral matter insoluble in acid . . . 0.2 per cent. The above amount of mineral matter insoluble in acid was in excess of that normally found in this kind of article, and resembles fine clay."

The complainant, shop manager and company representative were interviewed and a thorough investigation carried out. The complainant did not wish to be involved in legal proceedings and assurances by the company indicated their concern.

6. A complaint was received of a solid object — cement-like — in a sliced white loaf baked outside Mold.

The complainant, area manager for the shop's company and a representative of the bakery were interviewed. Investigation at the bakery revealed a missing portion of tile in one of the bulk flour silos and also a hole in the flour sifter. Action was taken to remedy the defects and as the complainant did not wish to pursue the matter further, it appeared that a satisfactory conclusion was reached.

7. Complaint regarding a "dirty" milk bottle. Submission to the Public Analyst revealed no contamination only "a small amount of dried milk residue on its inner surface."

The complaint was passed to the Health Department of the Local Authority in whose area the bot-

tling plant is situated for their observations — which were subsequently found to be satisfactory. The cleaning plant was found to be adequate and no further action was necessary.

8. Small pieces of metal were found embedded in the substance of a tin of pork luncheon meat. The owner of the shop was questioned and stock examined. The wholesaler concerned was contacted and the whole stock of tins at the shop in question was removed for disposal.

Food Samples.

The Public Health Inspector to the Flintshire County Council, Mr. E. Lewis, carried out routine food sampling and the following information relative to samples taken in this Council's area during the year is derived from his report :—

Description of Article.	No. of samples taken.	Genuine.	Not genuine or below standard.
Milk	9	9	—
Dairy Products	3	3	—
Ice Cream, etc.	4	4	—
Alcoholic Drinks	3	3	—
Fish and Meat Products	6	6	—
Patent Medicines	3	3	—
Miscellaneous Groceries	12	12	—
Fruit and Vegetables	6	6	—
	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 46	<hr/> —

Ice Cream.

During the year, nine ice cream samples were taken from the premises of the two manufacturers in the town and were subjected to bacteriological examination. Two samples were taken from mobile ice cream vehicles.

All the results with the exception of two taken from the manufacturers in the town were found to be satisfactory. Unsatisfactory results demonstrated quite clearly to the producers the care and attention necessary and the importance of following the advice given to him by the Department on cleaning and sterilisation techniques.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.

		Cattle excluding	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and		Pigs.
	Cows.				Lambs.		
Number killed	.... 280	.... 192	.... 9	.... 8287	....	1
Number inspected	.... 280	.... 192	.... 9	.... 8282	....	1
All diseases except tuberculosis :							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	.... 2	.... —	.... 32	....	—
Part of carcasses or offal condemned	.... 68	.... 40	.... —	.... 3281	....	—
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis	.... 24.2	.... 20.8	.... —	.... 40.5	....	—
Tuberculosis only :							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	.... —	.... —	.... —	....	—
Part carcass or offal condemned	.... —	.... —	.... —	.... —	....	—
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	.... —	.... —	.... —	.... —	....	—
Cysticercus Bovis :							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	.... —	.... —	.... —	....	—
Part carcass or offal condemned	.... —	.... —	.... —	.... —	....	—
Percentage affected with cysticercus bovis	.... —	.... —	.... —	.... —	....	—

Slaughtering commenced at the end of March and after a short time during which the throughput was steadily increasing, the demand for an Inspector's time to be spent on meat inspection was making itself felt in the Department. Attendance during the morning, in the afternoon and at night meant that other important legal duties were either neglected or deferred until some later date. Progress in other fields which were beginning to bear fruit was halted.

Later in the year, following a Ministry decision, the hours in which the slaughtering of animals may take place were revised and this brought about an increase in slaughtering hours within normal office time from two and a half days per week to three and a half days per week. In addition, an earlier starting time in the morning necessitated a greater proportion of a Public Health Inspector's time being spent purely on meat inspection duties.

It is anticipated that a further application to increase the hours of slaughter will be forthcoming during 1970, and with the present staffing of the Department a successful application would be nothing short of disastrous on the other work for which the Council are directly responsible.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

With the continued establishment of two good teams of refuse collectors it can be said that generally the refuse collection service ran very smoothly indeed.

In hail, rain or snow the refuse collectors carry out a hard, dirty job without complaining, and it is to their credit that compliments not only on the efficiency and regularity of the service but of the men themselves are received in the Department. It is unfortunate that this essential service does not get the recognition and appreciation it deserves and it is ironical that the better the service the greater is the criticism should there be a temporary delay through unforeseen circumstances.

During the year the Council decided, after a trial scheme proved successful, that in order to increase the efficiency of the service and enable it to absorb the growing bulk of refuse from the steadily increasing number of houses, etc., in the town, that a paper sack scheme be implemented over a five year period, at the end of which all domestic household refuse would be collected in paper sacks instead from dustbins. It is envisaged that the new system will be cleaner and more attractive in order to ease the problem of recruiting labour, and prove more economical in the future. Whilst refuse each year becomes bulkier through the increased use of tins, boxes, plastic containers, etc., it is only through increased efficiency that vehicle and labour costs can be kept to a minimum.

Refuse Disposal.

Fully controlled tipping is now well established at the Rhual Tip and although conditions during the wet periods of the year are difficult, access to and from the tipping areas has been improved and now affords ideal tipping conditions for those using the site.

The increase in the quantity of refuse and in the use of the tip by ratepayers gives rise to doubts regarding the expected twenty year life of the tip.

The B.100 digger loader continues to bulldoze the refuse into place, compact it and then each night blind the sides, top and face of the tip with soil. The supervision of the tip and the compliance with the requirements of the extremely stringent lease will continue to occupy your officers' time during the life of tip. It is indeed fortunate that the tractor driver and his assistant, with some experience now of the requirements of controlled tipping, can be relied upon to make every effort to comply with the terms of the lease.

Street Sweeping.

Labour difficulties during the year were eased slightly although the image and remuneration does little to encourage applicants for manual road sweeping jobs. The Johnston Vacuum Sweeper ensures that all the road channels on the main streets are swept daily and all other roads in the town at least weekly. It is estimated that between ten and twenty tons of grit, dirt and rubbish are removed each week by this machine, leaving the manual labour available to concentrate on sweeping paths and collecting litter.

The public attitude towards litter leaves a lot to be desired and it is frustrating to see streets which early in the morning were swept clean and the footpaths cleared, littered with all sorts of refuse by the time mid-morning arrives; even the close proximity of litter bins appears to be disregarded. Perhaps on the spot fines for persons dropping litter will prove to be the only remedy for such disregard to public amenities.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The statutory report required by the Act is as follows :—

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	No. of Premises newly Registered during the year.	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year.	No. of Premises receiving General Inspection during the year.
Offices	6	39	13
Retail Shops	11	97	53
Wholesale Shops	—	3	2
Catering Establishments	1	14	7
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	—
	18	154	75

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises—184.

Analysis of workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Workplace.	No. of Persons Employed.
Offices	196
Retail Shops	343
Wholesale Dept., Warehouses	20
Catering Establishments	45
Canteens	3
Fuel Storage Depot	6
Total	613
Total Males	239
Total Females	374

Exemptions and Procecutions.

No exemptions were granted and no legal proceedings have yet been instituted.

Staff.

Two Public Health Inspectors are appointed under Section 52 to enforce the Act, one Inspector devoting a small portion of his time to the Act with the other employed only very occasionally in connection with the Act.

Premises at which contraventions found.

Class of Premises.	Number.
Offices	7
Retail Shops	38
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	2
Catering Establishments and Canteens	6
Fuel Storage Depots	—
Total ...	<hr/> 53 <hr/>

Details of contraventions found.

Unregistered premises	6
Cleanliness	36
Overcrowding	1
Temperature	16
Ventilation	16
Lighting	12
Sanitary Accommodation	42
Washing facilities	28
Drinking water	6
Clothing accommodation	4
Seating	—
Eating facilities	4
Floors, passages and stairs	20
Safety and operation of machinery	5
Noise and vibration	—
First aid facilities	17
Abstracts	32
Total ...	<hr/> 247 <hr/>

The number of contraventions found was proportionately smaller than the previous year's figures, indicating an improvement generally in the working conditions in those premises which are covered by the Act. It is essential, however, not to become complacent, and regular visits by a fully qualified officer is the only satisfactory way of ensuring that premises continue to improve towards complete compliance with the legislation in force.

CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 and 1968.

No further Smoke Control Orders were pursued during the year. The advent of North Sea Gas, resulting in the closure of coke producing Gas Board plants, together with problems in the solid smokeless fuels industry, gave rise to problems of supplies of preferred fuels to the Smoke Control Areas in Mold. The whole future of the Smoke Control Areas in Mold and any further development of a smoke control programme hinges not only on the finance available but also on Government policy regarding the adequacy of supplies of solid smokeless fuels.

The daily recordings of sulphur dioxide and soot particles in the air, which are recorded in the Department, indicate quite clearly that a rather high level of pollution exists and the ultimate achievement of a smoke-free atmosphere will be of benefit to all.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

Number of petroleum stores licensed	21
Total number of gallons stored	74,500 gallons
Fees paid	£96

The twenty-one premises above are licensed annually for the storage of petroleum spirit and following the revised Home Office Model Codes, which the Council adopted and included in their conditions of licence, every effort is being made to bring the electrical installation parts of the premises up to standard. It is anticipated that by early in 1970 all the premises will comply in full with the conditions of licence.

FACTORIES.

There is only one out-worker in the Mold Urban District and conditions are satisfactory.

Premises. (1)	No. on Register. (2)	Number of :			Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	1	—	....	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	25	3	....	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	...	—
Total	54	26	3	—	—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.					
	(1)	(2)	Referred		(5)	(6)
			Found.	To H.M. In- Remedied, spector.	By H.M. In- spector.	In which prosecutions were instituted.
			(2)	(3)	(4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—						
(a) Insufficient	1	1	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—
Total	...	4	—	2	1	—

GENERAL.

In concluding the Report for 1969, I must point out that this summary of the work of the Health Department was completed after the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year under review resigned to take up another appointment in Local Government in early 1970. Therefore on behalf of your past Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. Goucher, and myself, may I take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council for their support and interest in the work of the Department, and in particular for the support given by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Mr. Wesley Edwards.

The fact that we were able to function both administratively and practically to the extent we did in an effort to further the work and duties with which we are involved was due in no small way to Miss C. McManus, the Clerk/Typist, and Mr. G. Bevan, the Foreman, both of whom have developed knowledge and ability in their work to a high degree.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Officers of the other Departments for their continued co-operation throughout the year.

M. COPPACK, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector.

